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the average American regards the public treasury as a boundless resource, and is pretty sure to think that the particular cases of poverty with which he is acquainted should be relieved with bounty.

In German cities placing the power of granting relief in the hands of honorary district visitors has usually resulted in a decrease in the amount of the grants. A similar plan in an American city would seem likely to result in an increased expenditure as dangerous to the permanent welfare of the poor as it would be burdensome to the taxpayer. German public relief has never become so bountiful as to need general curtailment in the interest of the poor themselves. Until it does German writers will fail to appreciate the American objection to the Elberfeld system. The discussion of Friendly Visiting at the Chicago Congress reached the conclusion (page 28) "that the friendly visitor is a failure when allowed to dispense alms." The best service in imparting strength to the weaker members of society is undoubtedly done by visitors who are not almoners, and where such visiting is combined with adequate relief from private sources, granted after friendly but expert investigation and council, we may justly claim to have a system of outdoor relief in advance of that of Elberfeld.

D. I. GREEN.

The Meaning of History, and Other Historical Pieces. By FREDERIC HARRISON. Pp. viii, 482. Price, \$2.25. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

These essays which Mr. Harrison has just given the public in connected form are not new. Nearly all of them have served as lectures or as magazine articles, and several were published a generation ago.

The greater part of the volume is devoted to a series of discussions of "The City: Ancient, Mediaeval, Modern and Ideal," with suggestive studies of Athens, Rome, Constantinople, Paris and London, with especial attention to the recent transformations which those cities have undergone. A "Survey of the Thirteenth Century" finds a place beside an essay on "What the Revolution of 1789 did," followed by a pointed comparative study of "France in 1789 and 1889." A discourse on "Palæographic Purism" adds spice to the collection.

The title of the volume, however, derives its significance mainly from the first four essays: "The Use of History;" "The Connection of History;" "Some Great Books of History;" and "The History Schools." As these have all been before the public for years, they need no detailed review at this time. It will be more in point to try to gather what light the essays, taken together, throw upon the meaning and use of history.

In the first place any criticism of these essays would be manifestly unfair, which should fail to take due account of their avowed purpose and of the class of readers whom they aim to serve. It is not to the historical specialist that Mr. Harrison offers new light. Nor does he aim to start a new fad among the leisure class. He seeks rather to turn into fruitful historical lines "the ordinary fireside reading in our mother tongue of busy men and women." The wider range of view, the truer perspective, the foresight-giving knowledge of the past, these are the grounds on which he urges the usefulness of history, not simply to the student, but to "the bulk of the people, if they are to live the lives of rational and useful citizens."

For these busy men and women he would not prescribe disconnected fragments, for, in his view, "history is the biography of civilized man : it can no more be cut into absolute sections than can the biography of a single life." Little sympathy or appreciation does he show for the research of the "conscientious annalist," who completes the history of each year in successive volumes, by the continuous study of an equal period. Such work seems to him sterile microscopy. Gibbon is his ideal historian. He delights to honor the historian who has "grasp," who paints things in the large. Entrance to his list of "Great Books of History" is secured not by exhaustive research, painstaking accuracy and judicial candor, but rather by comprehensiveness, perspective, poetic fervor and dramatic grouping. Hence, Guizot and Carlyle are exalted far above many an historian whose statements are more reliable.

In his choice of books Mr. Harrison is confessedly old-fashioned, yet he shows acquaintance with a very wide range of historical writings, and his suggestions are calculated to be of great service to those whom he seeks to help. For it is not the student recluse, but busy men and women that he would here incite to find in history that "biography of civilized man, the reading of which ought to fill us with emotion and reverence."

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

Deutsche Geschichte, Von KARL LAMPRECHT. Band IV, Pp. xv, 488. Band V, Theil I, Pp. xiii, 358. Per Band, 6 Marks. Berlin : R. Gaertner's Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1894.

It was to be expected that the recent quickening of interest in social and economic studies should be reflected in the writing of history, just as the movements for constitutional government earlier in this century were accompanied by a succession of notable works on constitutional history. Professor Lamprecht, of Leipzig, is the first to